



**Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wild Horse & Burro Program**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wild Horse & Burro Adoption “Open House” at Hutchinson Correctional Facility

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is holding a wild horse “Open House” and adoption at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility in Hutchinson, Kan., May 6-7. The two-day event will feature 12 to 15 spectacular saddle-trained wild horses plus many untrained wild horses for adoption on Saturday, May 7.

Through a unique partnership with the Hutchinson Correctional Facility, BLM offers gentled wild horses for adoption. These animals are halter or saddle trained by inmates in a rehabilitation program.

Preview of all animals available for adoption begins Friday, May 6, at 10:00 a.m. Training demos will be held throughout the day. Doors open again Saturday, May 7, at 8:00 a.m., with the actual adoption beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Adoption fees will be determined by competitive bid. Initial bids for trained wild horses will be \$350. Initial bids for an *untrained* wild horses will be \$125.

The majority of the yearlings available for adoption were born in captivity on BLM contracted pastures in Oklahoma and Kansas, and the studs and mares were gathered from herds in the western states.

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Wild Horse and Burro Program Manager Bob Mitchell observed, “These animals are noted for their endurance, sure-footedness, and strong sense of loyalty to their caretaker.”

To qualify to adopt at the event, bidders must be at least 18 years old, with no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have specific facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. All animals must be loaded in a covered trailer with solid walls and floors – no drop ramp trailers.

This event presents an opportunity for the public to participate in the adoption process and share in their American heritage.

The BLM has placed more than 203,000 horses in approved homes across the country.

For more information on this “Open House,” call **866-4-Mustangs**, or visit

www.wildhorseandburro.gov.

Directions to Hutchinson Correctional Facility: From Wichita, Kan., take Kansas State Route 96 west towards Hutchinson/Valley Center, take US-50 east - State Route 61 north. The horse pens are located on Avenue G east of the south unit of the HFC.

Media Activities:

- Excellent photo opportunities starting **Friday** at 10 a.m.
- Follow an adopter from registration to the ride home.
- Talk with past adopters about their experience with the program.
- Interview BLM Wild Horse and Burro Specialists about the history of the program, and find out what qualifies as a good home.

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation’s public lands. With the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the Bureau gained the responsibility to care for wild horses and burros on these lands in harmony with other natural resources. When an over-population of wild horses and burros exists on these public lands, some animals are removed and offered to the general public for adoption.